

## REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

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✓ DTS

MEMORANDUM FOR PRR (Contractor/In-House Publication)

FROM: PROI (TI) (STINFO)

4 June 1999

SUBJECT: Authorization for Release of Technical Information, Control Number: AFRL-PR-ED-TP-FY99-0102  
Brand, Hawkins..., "Laboratory Characterization of High Energy Materials"

**HEDM Poster Session**

(Public Release)



# Laboratory Characterization of High Energy Materials

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A.J. Brand, T.W. Hawkins, and M.B. Mckay  
AFRL, Edwards AFB, CA

I.M.K. Ismail

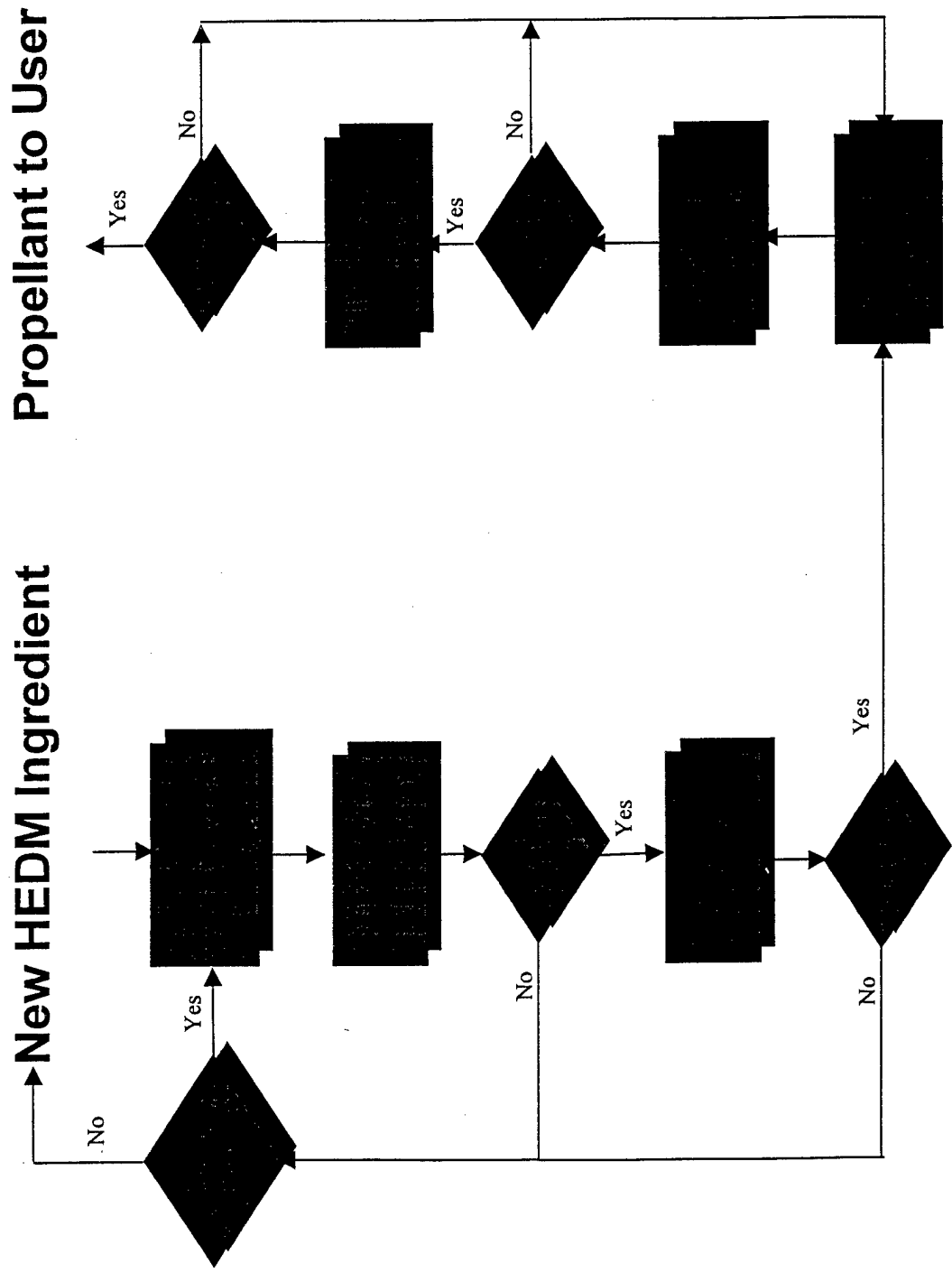
ERC Inc., Edwards AFB CA

AFOSR HEDM Conference

10 June 1999



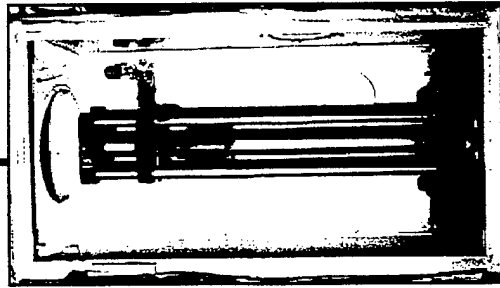
# Approach to Advanced Propellant Development



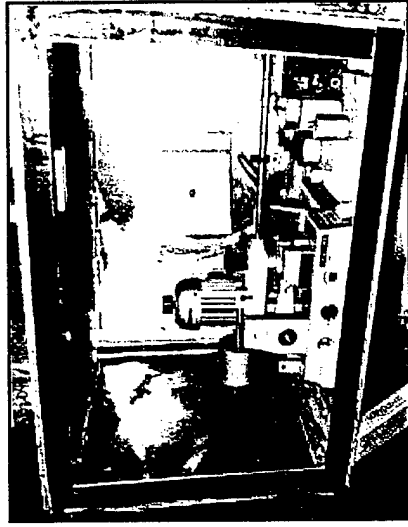


# Ingredient/Propellant Testing

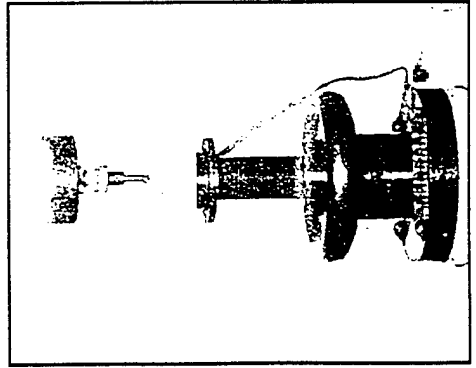
**Impact**



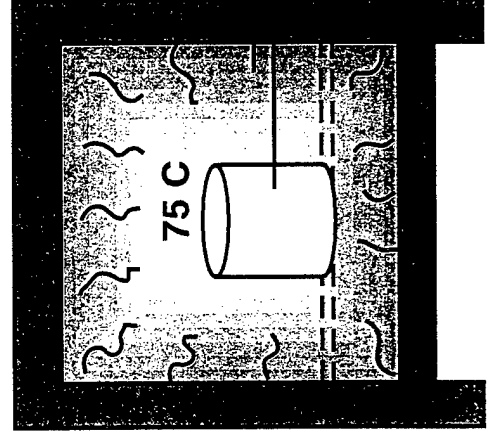
**Friction**



**Electrostatic Discharge**



**Thermal**



48 Hours

$\Delta T < 3^{\circ}\text{C}$

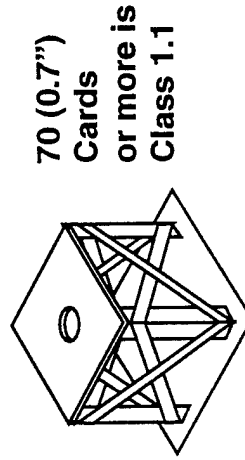
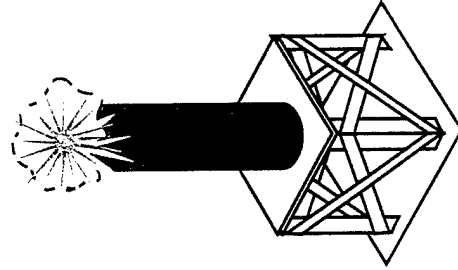
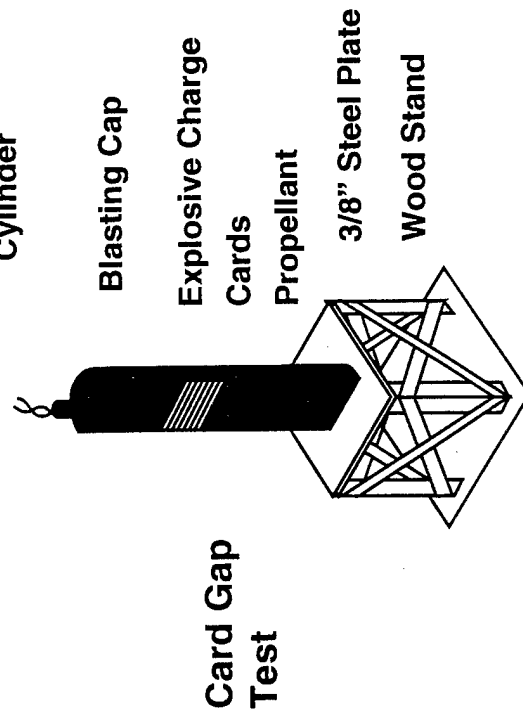
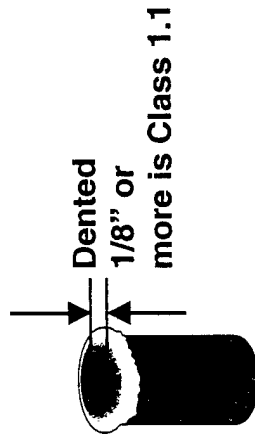
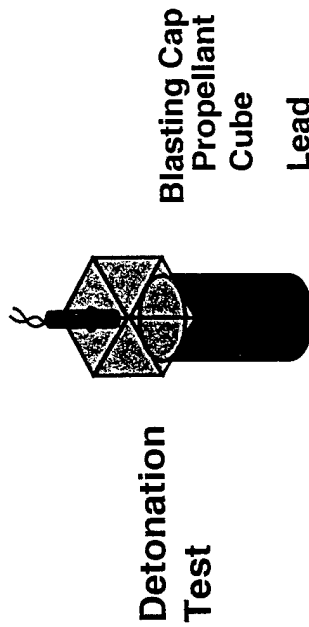
$\Delta W > 2\%$



# Ingredient/Propellant Testing

## Shock to Detonation Tests

- All current solid rocket propellants are divided into two hazard classifications (1.1 or 1.3)
- Two tests are used to distinguish between Classes 1.1 and 1.3

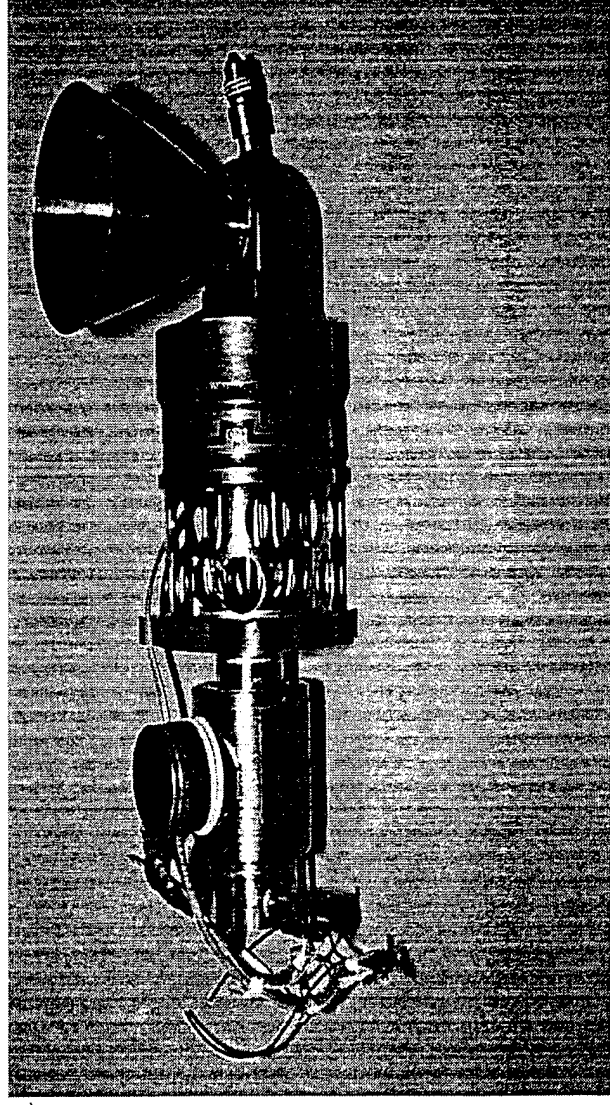




# Candidate Salt Ingredient Characterization & Safety Testing

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## Amine Functional Nitrate (AFN)



- AFN is a Dense, Low Melting Liquid Salt Suitable as a Monopropellant Ingredient
- AFN Meets Thermal Stability, ESD, Impact, Friction, and Detonability Requirements to Continue Development



# Acceptable Monopropellant Properties

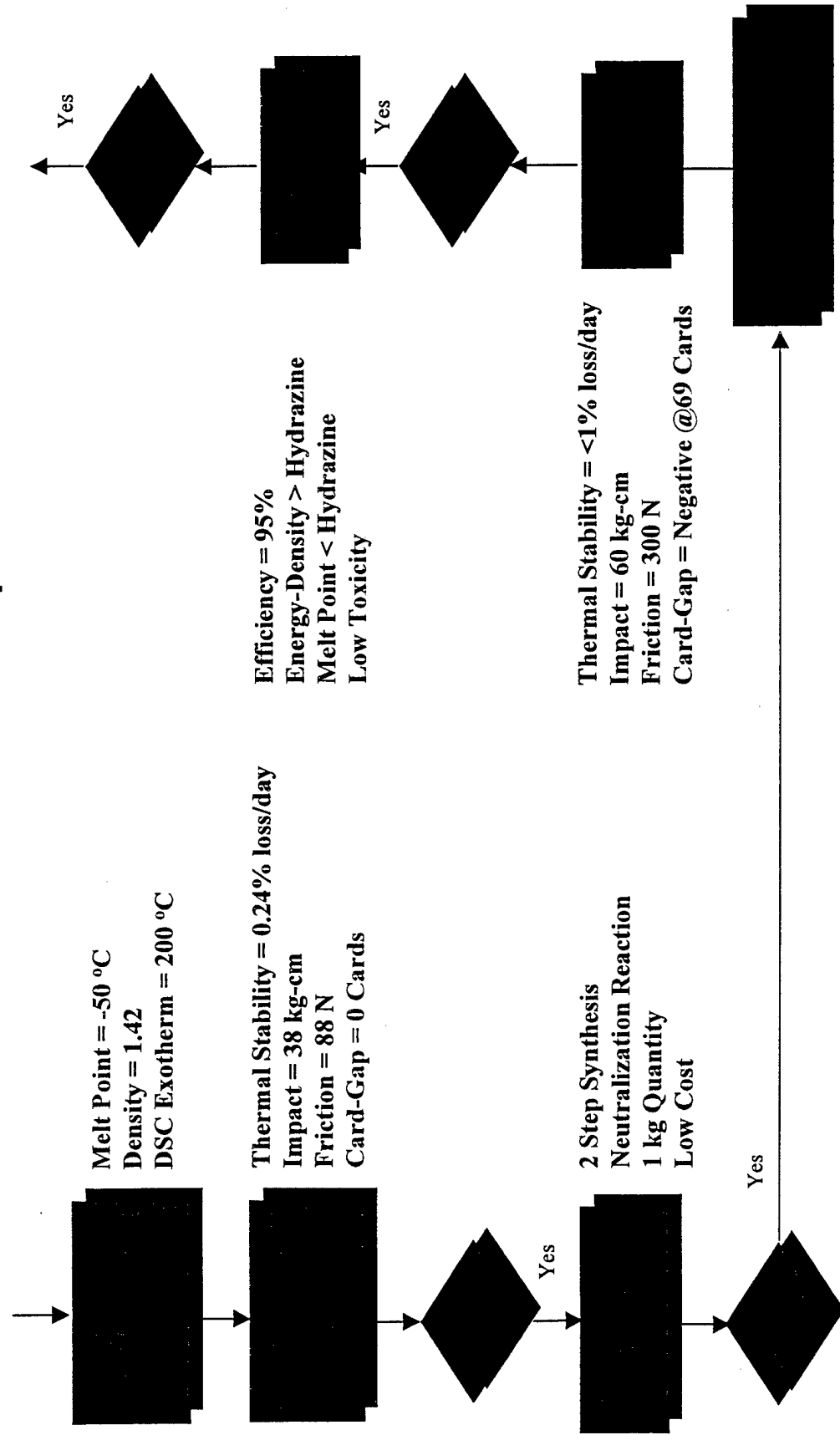
Characteristic	Objective
Density Isp [300 psi-vac; exp=50]	> 50% increase over Hydrazine
Vapor Toxicity	Does Not Exceed TLV (No SCBA in Handling)
Carbon Content	No Solid Carbon Forms in Theoretical Exhaust
Melting Point	< 2° C
Detonability [NOL Card Gap]	Class 1.3; (Prefer 24 Cards Maximum (E <sub>50</sub> ))
Impact Sensitivity [Drop Weight]	20 kg-cm Minimum (E <sub>50</sub> )
Adiabatic Compression [U-Tube Test]	No Explosive Decomposition (Pressure Ratio of 35)
Thermal Stability	< 2% by wt. Decomposition for 48 hrs at 75° C
Critical Diameter	No Propagation in Lines of < 0.75 inch Diameter

\* Reference: (1) M.B. Frankel et. al., Rocketdyne Div., Rockwell International, Technical Report, May 1979.





# Propellant Submitted to User





# Monopropellant Chemical/Physical Characteristics

Properties	AFN1	AFN2	HAN-Based	Hydrazine
Density, g/cc	1.43	1.46	1.34	1.01
Viscosity, cp	8.6	23.1	7.4	0.97
Chamber Temp. (Theoretical), K	2070	2083	1369	883
Carbon Content of Exhaust; (b)	none	none	none	none
Impact Sensitivity, kg-cm (5 negatives)	>200	60	>200	>200
Friction Sensitivity, N (5 negatives)	318	300	>371	>371
NOL Card Gap (at 69 Cards)	negative	negative	negative	negative
Thermal Stability, %wt loss/48hr, 7°C	< 0.5	1.96	5.1%	(< 0.1)
Melt Point, C	5 (c)	<-22	-39	1

a: Theoretical, calculated with 300 psi chamber pressure, exhaust to vacuum, 50/1 expansion

b: as soot or solid carbon (by theoretical computation)

c: by DSC; melt transition was broad, melt peak reported

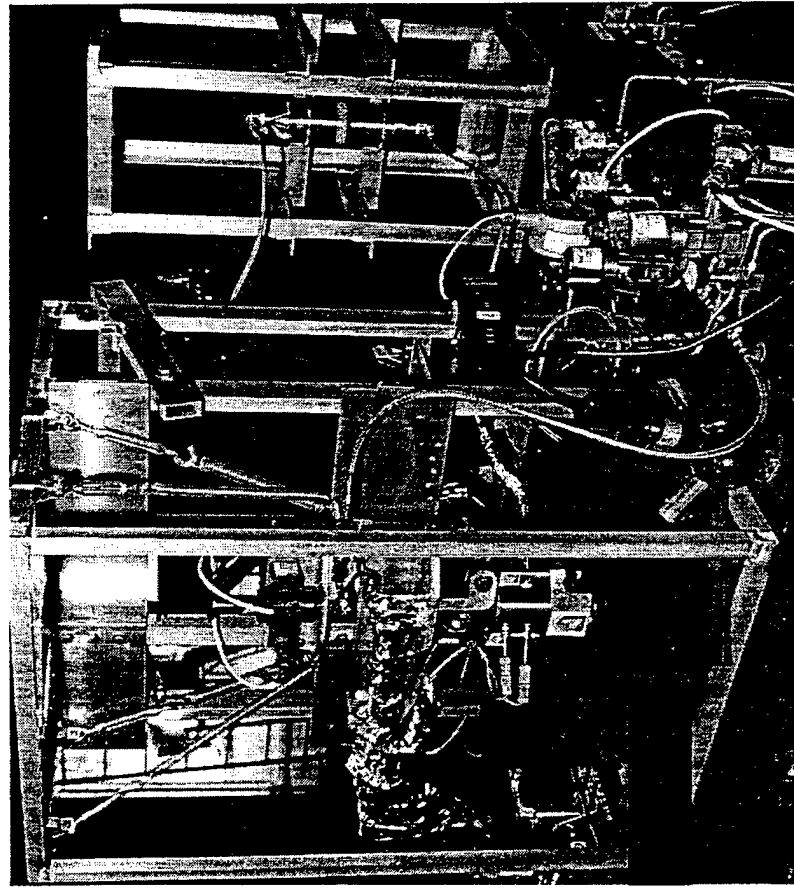
\*: For reference, n-propylnitrate had an impact sensitivity of 8 kg-cm

**AFN-Based Propellants Display Acceptable Safety/Sensitivity Properties For Continued Development**

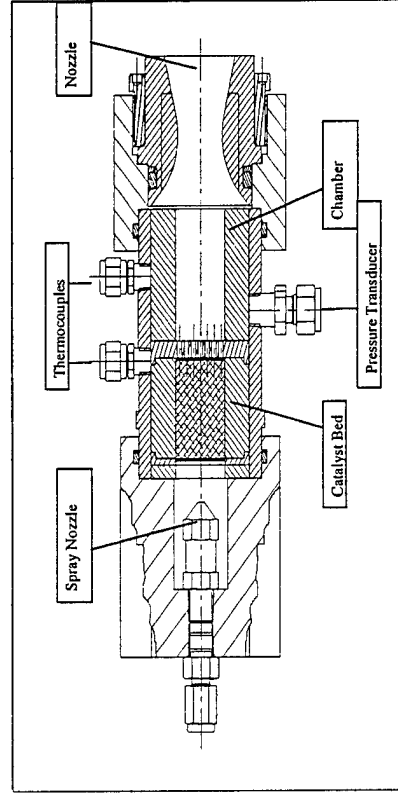
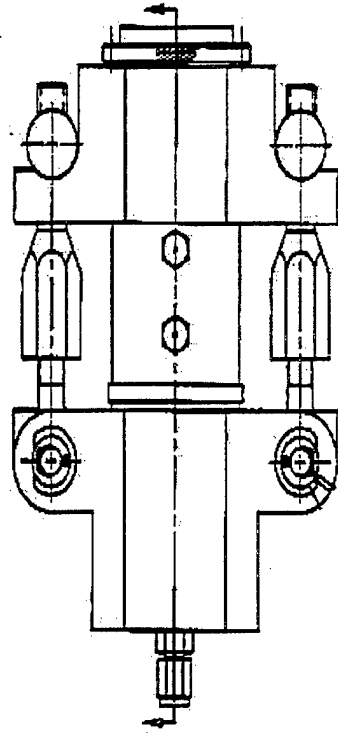


# Monopropellant Thruster Testing

Monopropellant Thrust Stand



15 lbf Modular Thruster



AFRL Fabricated Thruster and Initiated Testing  
at National Hover Test Facility in 1998



# Monopropellant Thruster Testing

## Monopropellant Test Firings

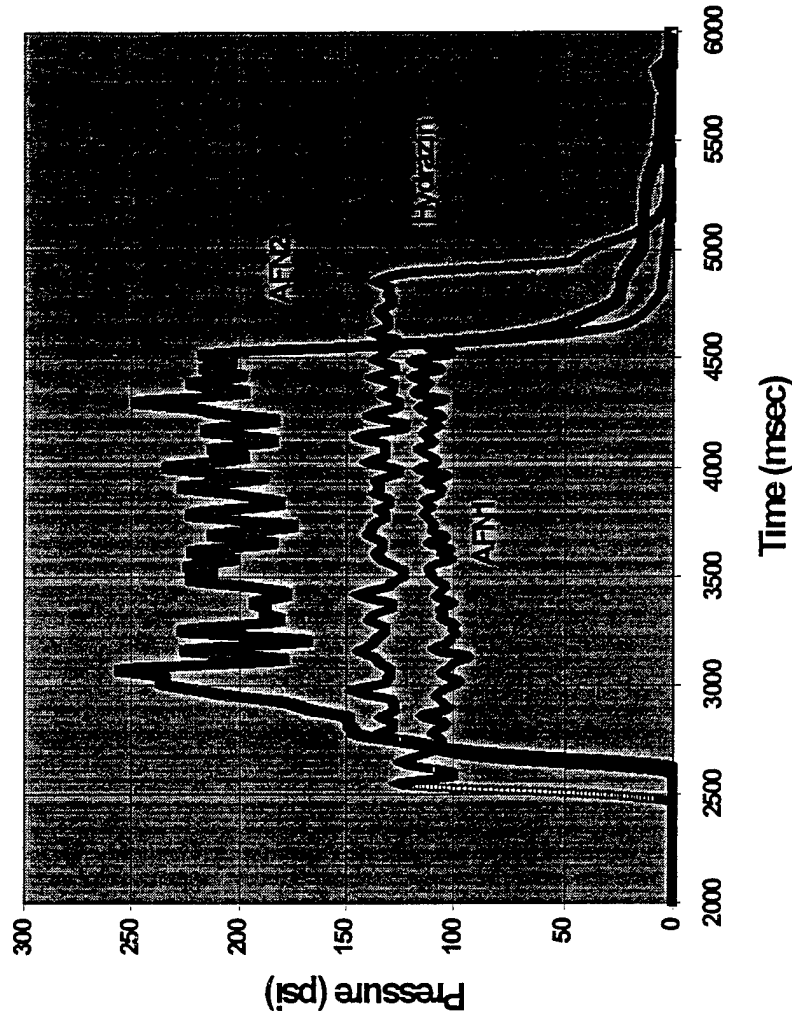
### Monoprops      %Efficiency

Hydrazine                      96

AFN1                              85\*

AFN2                              95

**\* Compromised Seal  
Caused Leaking of  
Exhaust and Poor  
Performance**





# Toxicology of AFN

## Toxicology

PROPERTY	AFN	HAN (13M)	HYDRAZINE
LD50 (rat), mg/kg	367	325	60
Dermal Irritation	Slight	Moderate	Corrosive
Genotoxicity (Ames)	3 Negative/ 2 Positive	Negative	Positive

## Vapor Toxicity ( TVDL)

AFN    no detection <1ppb    (TLV for Hydrazine is 0.01ppm)

### AFN Evaluation:

- Negligible Vapor Pressure
- 6X Less Oral Toxicity than Hydrazine
- Very Low Dermal Irritation
- Genotoxicity (Bacterial) in 2 of 5 Strains



# Laboratory Characterization of High Energy Materials

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## Conclusions

- AFN Has Demonstrated Acceptable Properties to Further Propellant Development
  - Displayed Good Stability (Thermal, Friction, Impact and Detonability)
  - Low Melt Point is Suitable for Monopropellant Applications
  - Extremely Low Toxic Vapor Concentrations
- AFN-Based Propellant Has Been Evaluated to Indicate Additional Development is Warranted
  - High Performance Demonstrated in Thruster Testbed
  - Acceptable Safety Properties
  - Low Toxic Vapor Concentrations
- Propellant Submitted to Industry for Evaluation